Castlemaine Naturalist

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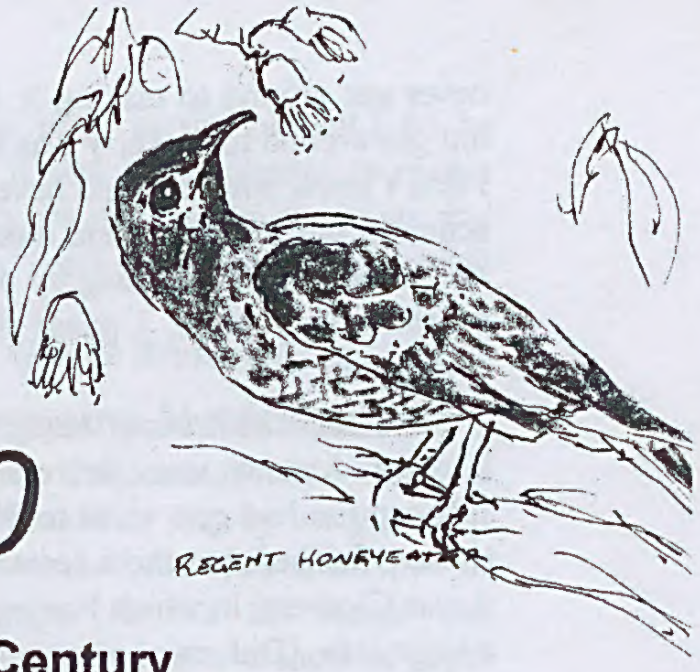

Our Triple Century

To mark the occasion of our 300th Newsletter I thought it might be a good idea to look back at some of earlier milestones to see what we were up to at the time.

We have looked at issue #1 before, so I thought I might start with issue #10. This was Feb. 1977 as there were only 9 issues in the first year as #1 appeared in April. #10 consisted of two foolscap-sized sheets, giving 8 pages. Ray Bradfield was still our President, Rita was Secretary, and Ern the Newsletter Editor. The main article was an account by Geoff Sitch of the habits of the Mistletoe Bird. We were up to #6 in the series "Plants of the Castlemaine District" which happened to be Lemon Beauty Heads. The outing for that month was to the Kaweka Sanctuary, lead by me.

Newsletter #50 came along in September 1980. Geoff Sitch was by now President, and I was Editor. #50 consisted of only one foolscap sheet, i.e. 4 pages. Plant of the month was Tiny Star, Hypoxis hookeri, no number was given. There was a report by Ern on the WVFNCA campout at Wood-wood, and the question was being asked [by me], how close were the Indian Mynahs to Castlemaine, as at that stage they were not seen much closer than Gisborne. Our outing was a stroll through the bush at Chewton lead by Geoff Sitch, and we were planning our Annual Show-day holiday walk, which was to be from Green Gully on the Newstead road, to Goldfields Nursery on the Maldon road, which was then still being run by Geoff Sitch.

Nearly 5 years later we reached #100 in April 1985. The President that year was Jack Dare and Secretary Beri Perry. I was again the Editor. By now foolscap had passed into history so we had 3 sheets of A4, giving 12 pages. Of these, 5 consisted of an index to the first 100 newsletters prepared by Ern. There was a large article by Rita looking back at the first 100, one of Terry Collins' articles on Campbells Creek, and a note by me on issue #1. In this I pointed out that when we visited Basalt on the first ever outing, we decided that it would be worth a return visit in the Spring, but that we had

never got around to making it. Now here we are at #300 and we have **still** not got around to it. Terry was a marvellous contributor to the NL; as Editor I don't know what I would have done without his regular input. We had just acquired our P.O. Box and meetings were held at the former High School. As Rita did the right thing by providing me with a large article reminiscing on the first 9 years, I guess that it is appropriate that I now return the compliment.

Number 150 came along in October 1989. I was now President, Barbara Maund was Secretary and Rita was our Editor. A family subscription had now risen to $8. Our series of Plants of the District seems to have finished, but there seems to have been a series on weeds. This month it was Cleavers, in which Ern pointed out that it can be cooked and eaten as a vegetable. [Did anyone try it ?]. In the main article Ern reported finding a new species of Bursaria near the senior campus of the Secondary College. He also quoted some figures from his records showing the areas with [a] most native plants [b] most weeds, [c] least weeds. Our activities for the month included a visit to Sandon with the Ballarat club on Saturday and a visit to Fryerstown on Sunday with Bendigo. There was also a campout at Creswick. It was obviously a very busy month.

Number 200 arrived in May 1994, consisting of 4 A4 sheets and with Rita as Ed. Barbara Maund was President and Marg Willis Secretary. Family membership was now $20. Indian Mynahs had arrived, Chris Morris was a contributor as was Ray Bradfield still. The major contribution was an article by Bob Webb, now sadly deceased, on his nest boxes at Sandon. Maggie was leading a party of Bird Observers who were camped [?] at Derby Hill. Behind Mt. Tarrengower they found two Bush Curlews, and at Tullaroop there were Regent Honeyeaters. Ern wrote an article on finding Brown Stringybark at Muckleford, while my contribution was about seeing a Red-browed Treecreeper at Tipperary Springs. Fortunately I was with Pat Bingham at the time so had little difficulty in being believed An article by Rita referred to the fact that it was the 200th issue and how nice it is for an editor to have people who write contributions. [Hint, hint!]

In November 1998 when issue #250 appeared I was President [again], Barbara Maund was [still?] Secretary, and Rita continued with the NL. Family membership now $24. Our speaker for the next meeting was to talk about Regent Honeyeaters. The main article was by John Turnbull and was on the subject of Brush-tailed Phascogales. Other articles were reports on Campouts at Kara-Kara S.P. with the National Parks and at Warrnambool to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the club. Ken Cross and I found this most intriguing, both having grown up in Warrnambool. There was also an account of our recent outing to Barfold Gorge by Rita . The series 'Plants of the Mount Alexander Shire' reappeared with an article on the Primrose Goodenia.

It is really quite fascinating to glance back at the old NLs to be reminded of our activities over the years. It is also quite sobering to realise just how long ago we did some things which are still fresh in the mind, and seem to have occurred in only the last few years. Now we wonder what changes will take place during the next 50 issues.

George Broadway

Technology and the Castlemaine Naturalist.

When the first issue (April 1976) of the Castlemaine Naturalist was produced the usual method of producing a newsletter was by using a spirit duplicator or a wax stencil. With the former method the copy was typed or written using a special type of carbon paper so that the image was transferred to the master. The carbon was then copied on to a sheet of paper that had been moistened with methylated spirits. The copies made in this way were usually purple and often faint. They were also impermanent. The alternative method was to type the copy on to a wax stencil and the copies were printed using a Roneo or Gestetner machine.

The first issue of the Castlemaine Naturalist coincided with the introduction of a Xerox photocopier to Castlemaine. The machine was housed in the Education Centre, upstairs in what is now the CHIRP building. It took up a double room and used three-phase power. It took skill to use. Some advocated riffling the paper beforehand, and others ruffling. Clearing of the frequent paper jams was not for the faint hearted. Often the copy was faint and a good typewriter ribbon was essential. An advantage of the photocopier was that drawings could easily be included in the newsletter.

In Castlemaine Naturalist 42, Dec. 1979, a photograph appeared on page 1 showing the newly made highway cutting near McManus Road. It was some issues before a photograph was used again, and photographs have been used intermittently since then.

A computer printout was first used in issue 94 (September 1984) and this was restricted to the program page. Some of the print was very faint. As expertise improved the copy became much more legible. The remainder of the newsletter continued to be typed, until number 99 (March 1985), when the notes for the geology tour were word processed. The computer print had the distinctive appearance of the early dot-matrix printers and the print, like that of typewriters, was of fixed-width print. Computer print and type appeared together for some issues.

Meanwhile, the world was progressing and metrication lead to changed paper size and the first issue printed on A4 appeared in edition 110 (March 1986). The new size was about 16 mm narrower and 4 mm less deep than the previous size. The technology of photocopiers was improving and some articles were reduced in size by using the reduction facility that were now appearing on photocopiers.

Computer use continued to increase and issue 113 (June 1986) was the first to be produced without the use of a typewriter. However, typewriter continued to be used and an electronic typewriter was used extensively from issue 199 (November 1994).

Quality of print continued to improve. Over the next hundred issues computer use became universal. Printer quality also improved with darker, higher-resolution printing and with an increasing range of type sizes and typefaces becoming available. Proportional spacing also helped improve the appearance of the printing. It was also possible to scan images and manipulate their size.

Colour printing has been a possibility for some years. The cost of colour, however, makes use of colour print or coloured pictures uneconomic.

Some of the contributors now provide articles for the naturalist on computer disk, so that items do not need to be retyped. However, use of the e-mail for transmission of articles, although common in other organisations, is yet to occur for the Castlemaine Naturalist.

Since late in 2002 some issues have been made available to members of the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association via the Internet.

Until the annual meeting in 1999 copies of the magazine were placed in the library and were available for any member of the public. From this date the newsletter was posted to each member and are generally not available to non-members.

What changes can we expect over the next 300 issues?

The future is mostly unpredictable.

The use of the Internet is almost certain to increase. Perhaps some members will be able to elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail and so avoid the need to pay for postage. Perhaps the newsletter will disappear and be replaced by the Internet. There would then be no need to restrict the size of articles or fit the newsletter into 4, 8 or 12 pages. Coloured photos could be included and there would be no need to wait until publication date before posting an article.

Use of digital cameras will be likely to become a regular feature. There will then be no need to wait until a film is developed.

Ern Perkins

Spineless Wonders

An Introduction to the Importance of Invertebrates

Those of us who were lucky enough to be at the meeting on May 9 had a fascinating evening with Alan Yen. He talked to us about the important ecological roles played by invertebrate animals

Invertebrates make up 99% of the animals on Earth, and many species

are yet to be named. In Australia only one third of the estimated 300,000 terrestrial invertebrate species have been given scientific species names. Alan told us how he had collected the invertebrates from the same two twenty-foot River Red Gums on two occasions - in February and again in October. Altogether he found a total of 8,456 invertebrates of 547 species - and only 120 species were common to both months. The invertebrates he found were mainly spiders, bugs, beetles, flies, ants and wasps.

Most cultures, apart from Western European culture, enjoy eating terrestrial invertebrates. They have an important nutritional role in their diets as, for example, witchetty grubs do in traditional Aboriginal diets.

Alan gave us warnings about introduced invertebrate pests such as European Bumble Bees that threaten to upset the ecological balance that has evolved over thousands of years. Tomato growers would like to introduce Bumble Bees to mainland Australia to help tomato pollination, but the 'buzz' pollination used by Bumble Bees would promote the pollination of introduced weeds as well.

Alan also told us intriguing stories of giant earthworms that live for 20 to 30 years, of scorpions that do not have to drink because they have such waxy exoskeletons, and of the three way relationship that exists between Castlemaine's Eltham Copper Butterfly, its host plant (*Bursaria spinosa*), and the ants (*Notoncus* sp.) that herd its caterpillars.

Robin Garnett

Is it a Native?

Last month the weed identification CD was launched. The project has taken almost 18 months to complete. The project evolved from something much less ambitious, but has always been a conservation project. For it to be effective the CD needs to be widely distributed and widely used.

A thousand copies were produced, and to date over 300 CDs have been sold, and today I had orders for another 30 (26 May).

The proceeds from the sale of the CDs will be used to pay for a second edition, if there is one, and the remainder of the proceeds will be used to support a conservation project.

The CD is not yet half full, so there is room for more material. Photographs, or samples of weeds are welcomed, so that the second edition can be more comprehensive,

My thanks go to the members of the CFNC, and to the members of the Shire's Weeds Committee for the support given, and assistance in producing, promoting and selling the CD.

Ern Perkins

Excursion to Newhaven

Although it is not an official excursion of the Field Naturalists, several members have decided to visit Newhaven this winter. Newhaven is a property 335 km north-west of Alice Springs and was purchased by Birds Australia a few years ago. It has a rich diversity of grasslands and woodlands and is home to a number of threatened species of birds and marsupials and many plants considered to be of conservation significance. Newhaven can be reached by conventional 2WD vehicles and small to medium caravans provided there is no rain (unlikely at this time of the year). So far, 9 members have indicated their intention to participate and Margaret Badminton has made a booking for the period 22-26 July. Camping facilities are basic. However, pit toilets and bore water are provided. Visitors must bring their own drinking water, petrol and gas. Some of us are travelling there together but most of us are also visiting other places after Newhaven. A report will appear in the newsletter in due course. If any other members are interested or require further information, please phone Margaret on 5473 4555 or me on 5472 1082.

Hans van Gemert

Lek Breeding!??

In an article in last month's Castlemaine Naturalist a reference was made to "lek breeding" behaviour in the New Zealand Kakapo. This raised a certain amount of interest and enquiries, which calls for an explanation or definition. For instance:-

> Lek(n), to lek(v), lekking(ger) a communal courtship place where males traditionally assemble order to attract and mate with visiting females; also the term for the actual cluster of males in display, and the act or habit of forming clusters to display.

Females only visit the lek briefly to select mates, which brings on the display from the males trying to out-compete each other to attract the females.

It is a form of polygamy whereby the females visit the site to select mates without forming any lasting bonds and the male plays no part in incubating the eggs or raising the young.

Lekking occurs within a wide range of species including some waders such as the Ruff and Sandpipers, also Birds of Paradise, Grouse and the Kakapo Parrot.

There seems to be some uncertainty as to how this practice evolved. There are advantages to the male in that more females are encountered and from the female viewpoint the lek facilitates comparison of a large aggregate of males.

Chris Morris

61 Hunter Street – Summer/ Autumn 2003

Musk Lorikeets were here in January and my neighbour's pear tree was visited by about 28 Lorikeets early one morning. They soon moved on – the pears were very green and sun scorched rather than ripe. Later at the end of February it was our turn and on this occasion I rose to find my small Satsuma plum tree festooned with approximately twenty Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. Fortunately the main crop had been harvested.

In March I was surprised to see a White-throated Treecreeper calling from the bush behind our property – the first for a very long time. Also in that month a small flock of Tasmanian Silvereyes made their annual visit to bathe and to feed on figs before continuing on their journey north. They are usually around for a day or so and always at the same time of the year.

It is rare to see Eastern Rosellas in our garden these days, but a pair, with one brilliantly coloured offspring, visited the birdbaths occasionally. Gangs of shrieking juvenile Crimson Rosellas are always around.

Another welcome visitor is the juvenile Grey Shrike-thrush, with a loud melodious call, that usually alights in a Melaleuca beside the garden shed. On the first occasions his call became very agitated and I observed him perched on the window sill with feathers ruffled and quivering with emotion at the sight of his own reflection. I adjusted the louvres and now his visits are much more relaxed but he always checks the window before feeding around the garden.

The Raven population is reduced to a pair – the Grey Currawongs have departed along with the strident Red Wattlebirds, so the smaller birds have regained confidence and returned to the baths and to feed at the *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*. New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Mistletoebirds, Silvereyes, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, occasional Superb Blue Wrens and Grey Fantails are regular visitors again. The Striated Pardalotes are often calling in the trees above their nest box – probably just to advertise their claims for the next breeding season.

Shirley Parnaby

Field Naturalist Clubs are on the Decline.

The Victorian Field Naturalists Association recently expressed concern at the declining number of Field Naturalist Clubs in Victoria. FN Clubs numbers are on the decline for a number of reasons: there are more opportunities than ever before to follow an interest in nature on the Internet, on television, in books and other publications, in international, national, state and local conservation and related groups. Given this increased access to information and other groups, together with all the other activities that people like to get involved in, our increased mobility, increased club insurance fees, and the materialistic obsessions that govern our modern lives, it is remarkable that our local FN Group has survived at all.

We were about to print our 300th edition of the Castlemaine Naturalist and I began to wonder about the state of our own club and its ongoing role in our community. With over 70 newsletters being sent out each month, Castlemaine remains a strong club with many long-standing members who have an amazing combined wealth of local knowledge. The question is, how can we ensure the future survival of our group by attracting new younger members to carry on this "hands on" knowledge into the future? As a starting point, I was curious to know how some of our naturalists first became interested in nature; why they joined the group; and what they see as the present day role of the group. Here is a summary of what I have learned:

When did you start attending FN meetings?

A number of our members have been involved with the club since its beginning, when a meeting was organised by Ray Bradfield in early 1976. Others joined the club when they came to live in Castlemaine often bringing with them knowledge gathered in other naturalist and bush walking clubs and conservation groups.

Why did you attend?

Some people joined the club at the recommendation of friends, neighbours or relatives who shared their interest in the natural environment. Some joined because of a particular interest such as bird watching or because they wanted to learn how to identify plants in order to be able to distinguish the 'goodies' from the 'baddies' on their own properties. The most common and interesting reason for regular attendance appears to have been the impression that this was a gathering of learned people who were willing to share their knowledge in a generous and friendly manner.

Was there any significant person or event that led to your interest in nature - were either of your parents interested in the natural environment?

Being able to roam in the bush/countryside as a child seems to be an important factor in developing a lifelong interest in nature. Some members learnt the names of plants and were encouraged to show an interest in wildlife by family members. Others' interests were kindled in a brownie or guide group, or as a result of a naturalist column in a newspaper, such as the Weekly Times and as a result started to make monthly lists of birds etc. Another important observation was that we walked a lot more (and therefore were exposed to nature more) when we did not have cars.

What do you see as the main role of FN groups?

As the name suggests, a field naturalist's role is to gather information/data out in the field. This data, collected over years of observation, forms an important historical record that can be used to educate the community on environmental issues and supply support in particular field projects.

Do you believe our group should be actively involved in

conservation and bio-diversity issues?

Most field naturalists are conservation minded when it comes to caring for the bush but not all members agree on what form or degree of conservation is needed. We are most adequately informed to act on local issues and it is imperative that if we are ever actively involved we must have people with wide community respect and local knowledge to speak for the group.

How can we foster a greater interest and understanding of the natural environment?

We have to be able to engage the interest of young people in schools and this means we must be prepared to go into schools and work with the teachers and students to encourage a keen interest in nature and the environment. Children have got to be encouraged to spend time out in the bush. I have vivid recollections of a high school class in the 60's being interrupted by a spontaneous visit from Mr Parnaby who produced an echidna from a hessian bag and let it wander around the room while he talked about it and we watched fascinated by such a close encounter.

We must be willing to lead well-advertised public bushwalks and hold slide shows and information sessions that provide opportunities to create an interest in the local environment. We must work with others to engage and educate our elected representatives so that they will be better informed to consider environmental aspects in their decision-making processes. Most importantly we must provide support to the members of our Castlemaine Club and work to ensure that their valuable knowledge of plants and animals is carried forward as this is the lynch pin to our successful move into the future. The new Is it a Native? CD is a great attempt to meet this challenge. It is an example of how we can use new forms of technology to our advantage.

Geraldine Harris

Observations

- John Turnbull has had a Barking Owl giving its "screaming woman" call near their place at Barkers Creek.
- In the half light early one morning around March Ian Higgins could see a commotion in Campbells Creek at the edge of the water near the blackberries. After about 5 minutes he could see enough to make out a line of ripples going off in each direction, and finally saw at the end of one of the trails a platypus and concluded that one was at the end of the other trail, too. He wasn't sure just what they were up to, whether they were feeding together or it was mating or territorial behaviour.
- Ken Dredge discovered that the raucous noise coming from their Liquidamber was a Noisy Friarbird, which left the scene when harassed by New Holland Honeyeaters. Ern Perkins commented that Noisy Friarbirds have arrived in Maryborough in large numbers recently.

• Frances Cincotta discovered lots of pink berries in the bird bath when she arrived home after a few days away. She decided to plant them and see what they were, and they proved to be Peppercorns. Discussion followed and it was decided from other observations that the culprits were probably Crimson Rosellas.

• The next four observations - titled "April Observations in Two Cities"! - come from John and Nina Cole:-

• "In Sydney, the Heathcote National Park is recovering from the January fires. The flower spikes of the Gymea Lilies are clearly visible and the buds are about to burst. We spent a few hours at the Sir Joseph Banks Native Gardens and found the drought has affected the banksias.

• "Returning to Melbourne on the 28th of April we stopped off at the Chiltern roadside stop. Were those Bogong Moths sluggishly resting on the ground and concrete? Two distinct sizes were there - probably male and female?

• "In a Melbourne eastern suburbs park Gang Gang Cockatoos were feeding on Eucalypt fruit.

• "And, in the five weeks we were absent from Barkers Creek the Gold-dust Wattle is blooming and "Wilma" Wallaby has a joey in her pouch."

• According to Geoff Hannon Crescent Honeyeaters are back in the town.

• Lots of seedling Magenta Storksbills *Pelargonium rodneyanum*, were seen during a walk through Kalimna on 20/5. On the downside, there were also masses of Bridle Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* which is spreading further into the bush. Grey Mistletoe *Ameyema quandang* was found also, just coming into flower. This mistletoe seems to be only found on Acacias.

• A Spotted Harrier was seen on the Moolort Plain by Ern and Lesley Perkins.

• Richard Piesse passed on a report from the owners of Sage Cottage in Fryerstown that they have a pair of Frogmouths in their garden.

• Barbara Maund found a patch of greenhood orchids on a property on the Maldon end of Lewis' Rd. It was about a metre across - lots of basal leaves, but only one flower - an Autumn Greenhood *Pterostylus revoluta*?

• While we were heading off on the Swift Parrot count (which really also incorporates the Regent Honeyeater count) we spotted this cheeky character in *our* area, watching the trees outside the Motel at Newstead through binocs. *We should have stopped!* It was Chris Tzaros who was following up a report from a Geelong visitor who had spotted a Regent Honeyeater there, and Chris was watching it! He contacted Maureen Dredge later, and there has been a trekking of people (twitchers!) out to see it too, but so far as I know, by 26/5 anyway, Ken Dredge has been the only other one to see it. (Wouldn't you know it!?) The last sighting in the district was noted in CN

200 in 1994. Rita Mills. (30/5 - Margaret Badminton and John Alexander have seen it too!)

• The pair of Southern Boobook Owls in the gardens area seem to have settled down permanently for the breeding season. Pellets collected indicate that food is scarce at present. Shirley Parnaby

• A walk in Vanstan Road block at Kalimna revealed a pristine example of the fungus "White Punk" – a member of the genus Polyporus (Dr. J. Willis, *Victorian Fungi*) growing on a yellow box tree a few metres down the track from the parking area on the left. Shirley Parnaby

• The body of an Australian Ground-thrush was found in our backyard at Barkers Creek. This beautifully marked bird is fairly common but not often seen because it is well-camouflaged and very quiet. It had no obvious injuries. Geraldine Harris.

• Up to ten Parsons Bands Orchids *Eriochilus cucullatus* observed in a group in Harris's bush paddock. Geraldine Harris.

• About a dozen Swift Parrots were seen flying across the railway line at Barkers Creek on 28/5 by Doug Mills.

FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING 22.5.03

Welcome to new members: Elizabeth Rouch and Alison Rowe

Web page for Castlemaine Field Naturalists: A web site is under consideration.

A **survey of Kalimna** has been undertaken by the Club, including the eastern side, with Kalimna committee members and Dean Bridgfoot, LandCare Group Co-ordinator.

Ern Perkins met with Deanna Marshall (Rare Species Officer, DSE) regarding a **proposed Dianella identification seminar** this Spring. (There is a total of 26 identified Victorian species.)

The club is considering a **membership with Environment Victoria** – a prominent lobby group that deals with state issues.

Disclaimer - The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club.

Reminder - Articles, reports and observations for the CN can be left with Noellene at Tonks Bros., Barker St. if that is more convenient for you.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club,
PO Box 324,
Castlemaine.
Incorporation #A0003010B

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club, June 2003.

Programme

General meetings are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) hall at 8.00 pm on the second Friday of each month, except January.
Excursions are usually on the Saturday following the general meeting, and leave promptly at the times stated from **The Octopus, opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street**. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are **NO excursions on total fire ban days.**

Business meetings are held at 27 Doveton Street on the 4th Thursday of each month, except December, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

Visitors are welcome at club meetings and excursions.

Fri. Jun. 13. *Plantings in the Drought.* Jenny Collier. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Jun. 14. *Barkly Park, Taradale.* Leader: J. Collier. Leave from the Octopus at 1.30pm sharp.
Fri. Jul. 11. *Snakes in the Hand.* Chris Hay, licensed snake handler. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Jul.12. *Eppalock – glacial remains.* Leave from the Octopus at 1.30pm sharp.
Fri. Aug. 8. *History of the Coliban Water Channels.* Geoff Russell. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Aug. 9. *Coliban Water Channel.*
Fri. Sep. 12. *Sri Lanka's Birds.* Stuart Dashper, Birds Australia. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Sep. 13. *Tubal Cain Mine and Sailors Gully.* Leader: R. Piesse. Leave the Octopus at 1.30 sharp.
Fri. Oct. 10. *Platypus Conservancy.* Dr. Melody Serena. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Oct. 11. *Mandurang.* Leader, Max Stevens.
Fri. Nov. 14. *Natural History, Outback.* Trevor Blake. UCA hall, 8pm.
Sat. Nov. 15. *Bendigo Sewerage Ponds.* Leader: Chris Morris.
Fri. Dec. 12. *Members and Visitors Night*

2003 Committee - C. Morris (President) ph. 9885 4221, J.Turnbull (VP and Grievance Officer) ph. 5474 3035, G. Broadway (Secretary) ph. 5472 2513, H. van Gemert (Treasurer) ph. 5472 1082, E. Perkins, R Mills (Newsletter Ed & Public Officer), G. Harris, (Ass't Newsletter Editor), B. Maund, M. Oliver, R. Piesse and J. Cole.

Subscriptions for 2003 -
Ordinary membership: Single $22, Family $30
Pensioner or student: Single $19, Family $24.

The subscription includes postage of the *Castlemaine Naturalist.*